

HCS HBs 1868 & 3257 -- IMPEDING, THREATENING, OR HARASSING A
FIRST RESPONDER

SPONSOR: Roberts

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing
Committee on Crime and Public Safety by a vote of 8 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for
HBs 1868 & 3257.

This bill creates the offense of impeding, threatening, or
harassing a first responder, which a person commits if a person,
receives an oral warning from a first responder not to approach
and the person willfully violates the warning and approaches or
remains within 25 feet of the first responder with the intent to
impede or interfere with the first responder performing his or
her duties, threaten the first responder, or harass the first
responder. The offense is a class D misdemeanor.

This bill is similar to HB 3257 (2026) and HB 1297 (2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the
committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced
version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill deals primarily with
interfering with the duties of a first responder. This type of
law is often referred to as a "halo" law. It is becoming
increasingly more prevalent with people who want to take videos
but end up interfering with first responders performing their
jobs. If someone is interfering with the duties, it takes the
first responder's focus off what he or she is doing. Currently,
nothing can really be done until the person actually impedes.
This would help them give a warning to keep people back so the
responders can focus on their duties. They chose 25 feet instead
of a shorter distance because the ability for a person to move
close and for a responder to react is diminished significantly at
such a short distance. And, even if an officer shoots a person,
that person can still close a large distance very quickly and can
still cause damage to a person. One witness recommended a change
to the term "ambulance driver", which doesn't exist anymore.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Roberts;
Metro West Fire Protection District; Robertson Fire Protection
District; Ambulance District Association of Missouri; Missouri

Ambulance Association; Missouri College of Emergency Physicians;
and Missouri Fire Service Alliance.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full
written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found
under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.